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### A NOTE FROM BRIAN BALBAS

### Chief Engineer



#### MISSION STATEMENT

THE CONTRA COSTA
COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL
AND WATER CONSERVATION
DISTRICT WORKS TO REDUCE
FLOOD RISK, PROMOTE
STORMWATER QUALITY,
AND RESTORE AND ENHANCE
NATURAL RESOURCES IN AN
ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE
MANNER THROUGHOUT
CONTRA COSTA COUNTY.

The Flood Control District plays a key role in providing flood protection for families and businesses throughout the County. We place high value on our work with volunteers, community, and youth groups, such as the new arundo removal effort in the Walnut Creek watershed, and especially our Creek and Channel Safety Program. Involving and educating our youth in watershed stewardship now helps ensure a healthy environment for future generations. A variety of factors impact our ability to provide services in the years ahead, and we are taking steps to ensure we are prepared. We have embarked on 'Vision 2025' which will outline a path forward to meet the challenges of the future while remaining a fiscally sound, customer oriented organization. One initiative already underway is evaluating the condition of our critical facilities in order to maximize service life.

This Annual Report provides some of our highlights from 2018. For the complete Report and previous years' reports, please visit www.cccounty.us/FCDAnnualReports.

THE DISTRICT
COMPLETED
OUR FIRST
PUBLIC REVIEW
AND ADOPTION
OF OUR
SEVEN-YEAR
CAPITAL
IMPROVEMENT
PROGRAM.



Significant progress was made on

## OUR LOWER WALNUT CREEK RESTORATION PROJECT

preliminary design. In January we released the Project Study Report detailing the preferred alternative and in July we received the 35% design plans.

# GRANT REQUESTS OF \$9M PLUS WERE SUBMITTED THIS PAST YEAR

and initial feedback on their award is promising. Our popular tours and outreach continued throughout the year.





#### **GIVING NATIVES A CHANCE**

planting event was held at Clayton Drain in Concord to continue removing invasive weed species and cultivating healthy native grass species.



The District received a third round of funding from the State Department of Water Resources for our

#### STREAM GAUGE, FLOOD STAGE, AND OUTREACH PROJECT

in the amount of \$374,000 (with no local match required) to calculate the flood stage elevation at 12 of our 15 stream gauges.

For October's "Creek and Channel Safety Awareness" month, students at Walnut Creek Intermediate hosted their 4th Annual event featuring the

#### **STAY OUT, STAY ALIVE**

theme with a poster contest, equipment showcase from the County Fire District's Swift Water Rescue Team, as well as tours, giveaways, and watershed information from District staff.





The District worked with the Wildcat-San Pablo Creeks Watershed Council and Trout Unlimited to host two volunteer events to remove sediment and debris blocking the

### WILDCAT CREEK FISH LADDER.

The result will be better passage for migrating endangered steelhead this winter. Also, this provided a baseline for how quickly and to what capacity the fish ladder is impacted each rainy season, which will assist in future grant applications to fund improvements.



**ABOUT** 

**15%** 

OF THE DISTRICT'S
FACILITY CONDITION
ASSESSMENT PROGRAM
HAS BEEN COMPLETED.
THE RESULTS INDICATE
THAT OUR FACILITIES
ARE IN OVERALL GOOD
CONDITION.





Mark Boucher, Senior Hydrologist, received the APWA Manager of the Year Award in the category of Engineering and Technology. The award was for his continuing efforts on improving the District's

#### RAIN MAP WEB APPLICATION

which monitors rainfall and potential flooding of creeks, and is available to the public at www.cccounty.us/RainMap



The District worked with the Walnut Creek Watershed Council, the Contra Costa Resource Conservation District, Supervisor Candace Andersen, and the Town of Danville Mayor Newell Arnerich to host our first

### ARUNDO REMOVAL EVENT

at Hap Magee Park in Danville.
Arundo Donax is an invasive plant species that the District is assisting local volunteer creek groups to locate and remove from the Walnut Creek watershed. The event was successful and more are planned.



## FLOOD CONTROL PARTNERED WITH THE CONTRA COSTA RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT, FRIENDS OF MARSH CREEK, AND EARTH TEAM

on a new earth day event which included a trash pickup competition, native plantings, and nurturing of existing plants planted four years ago during construction of the Upper Sand Creek Basin in Antioch.





